(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) BSNL's and MTNL's cellular tariff are quite customer friendly and on overall basis, they are either cheaper or comparable to the tariff of other operators. There is no proposal for further reduction in the tariff at this stage.

(c) and (d) Based on its business decision and commercial viability, BSNL is continuing to install latest and proven technology system to provide new services like GPRS (General Packet Radio Services), MMS (Multi Media Messaging Service) and EDGE (Enhanced Data rates for Global Evolution) for provision of high data rate etc. in its mobile network.

Single calling rates

1138. SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering adoption of a single calling rate, irrespective of distance called, within the country;

(b) if so, the status of the implementation of the above proposal and the proposed time-frame for the launch of the same;

(c) whether all stake-holders, including telecom companies have agreed to the proposal; and

(d) if not, the details of their grievances and the steps being taken to address them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) to (d) While Government are working towards One India Call Rate, the proposed measure is at initial stage. No time-frame can be fixed for the same for its introduction. It is premature, at this stage for any grievance/ agreement of stake-holders.

Agreement with Intel

1139. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that a joint statement have been signed regarding development of computing platform adaptable to local infrastructure condition between the chip maker Intel and Government recently;

(b) if so, the salient features of the statement;

(c) whether it was in the interest of the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Intel has signed a joint statement with Ministry of Communications and IT which focuses on reaching benefits of IT to the masses with the aim to design an appropriate Computing Platform for use in community kiosks based on cost effective wireless communication technologies. It outlines collaboration in the broad areas of Reaching IT to the Masses; Enabling Technology Competitiveness and Education.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The partnership is aimed at enabling citizens in villages and rural areas to avail benefits of information revolution, enhance IT literacy and PC proliferation, widening Government services reach and delivery and narrowing the digital divide.

Telecom Policy

1140. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the draft Telecom Policy has been finalized;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, by when it would be finalized?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

(c) It is expected to be finalized by the end of this year.

Setting up of Vigilance Telecom Monitoring Cell

†1141. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.